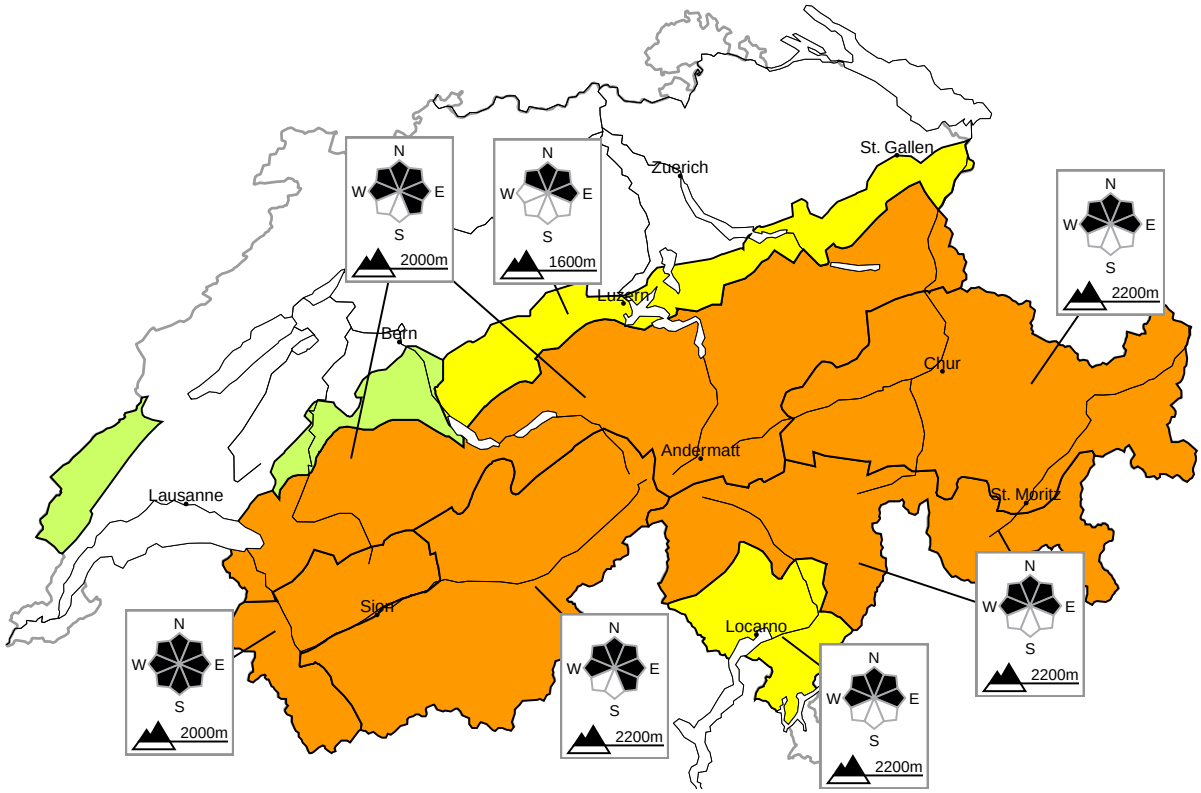
Considerable avalanche danger will be encountered over a wide area

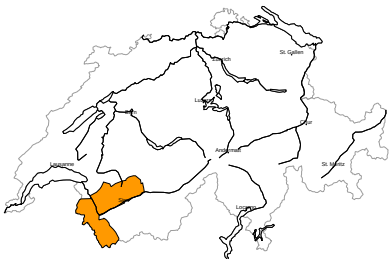
Edition: 14.3.2023, 08:00 / Next update: 14.3.2023, 17:00

Avalanche danger

updated on 14.3.2023, 08:00

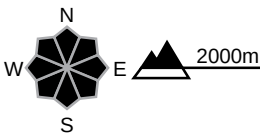


region A | **Considerable, Level 3+**



New snow, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

Large quantities of fresh snow and the wind-drifted snow are in some cases prone to triggering. As the day progresses as a consequence of the snowfall there will be an additional increase in the avalanche danger. In the afternoon probably danger level 4 (high) will be reached in the west. An increasing number of natural avalanches are to be expected. In the typical avalanche paths in particular on north facing slopes these can in isolated cases reach very large size and endanger transportation routes that are exposed.
The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous. Backcountry touring calls for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

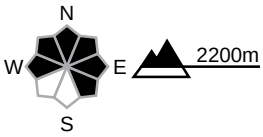
Danger levels 1 low 2 moderate 3 considerable 4 high 5 very high

Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 14. March 2023

region B — Considerable, Level 3+

Old snow, Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



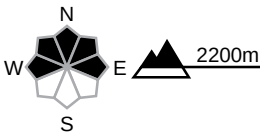
Danger description

Avalanches can be released very easily or triggered naturally. In some places they can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep north facing slopes and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. In addition the fresh wind slabs are prone to triggering in some cases. In the course of the day these will increase in size additionally. Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

region C — Considerable, Level 3+

Old snow, Snow drift

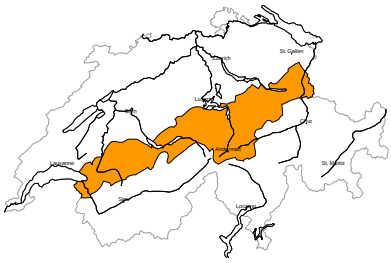
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

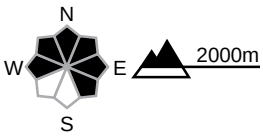
The new snow and wind slabs are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on north facing slopes. Avalanches can be released very easily or triggered naturally. They can reach medium size.
Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

region D — Considerable, Level 3-



Snow drift, Old snow

Avalanche prone locations

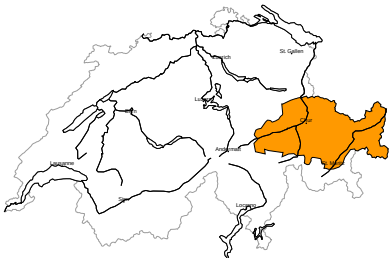


Danger description

As a consequence of new snow and a strong westerly wind, sometimes avalanche prone wind slabs will form. The prevalence of the avalanche prone locations will increase as the day progresses. Avalanches can be released by a single winter sport participant.
In some places avalanches can also be released in deep layers. These avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on steep north facing slopes and in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

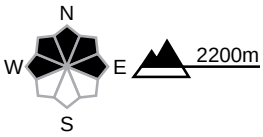
Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 14. March 2023

region E — Considerable, Level 3-



Old snow

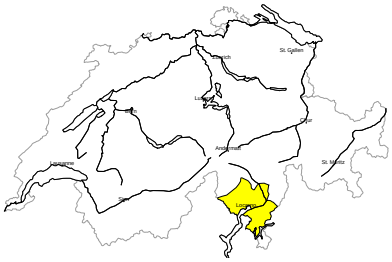
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

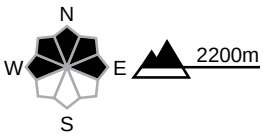
The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack in particular on north facing slopes. Avalanches can in some places be released easily and reach medium size. Avalanches can in some cases release the entire snowpack.
Backcountry touring calls for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection.

region F — Moderate, Level 2=



Snow drift

Avalanche prone locations



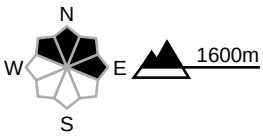
Danger description

The fresh and older wind slabs represent the main danger. They are only small but in some cases prone to triggering. Even a small avalanche can sweep snow sport participants along and give rise to falls.

region G — Moderate, Level 2-

Snow drift

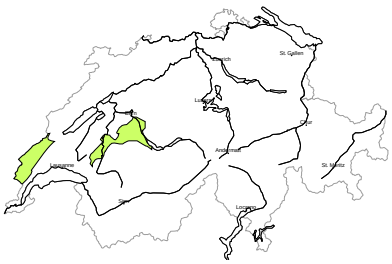
Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The fresh wind slabs represent the main danger. They are mostly small. In particular adjacent to ridgelines avalanches can be released easily. Apart from the danger of being buried, restraint should be exercised in particular in view of the danger of avalanches sweeping people along and giving rise to falls.

region H — Low, Level 1



Snow drift

As a consequence of new snow and a sometimes strong wind, small wind slabs will form in the course of the day. These are to be evaluated with care and prudence especially in terrain where there is a danger of falling.

Snowpack and weather

updated on 13.3.2023, 17:00

Snowpack

Over a wide area, fresh snow and strong wind are giving rise to snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering. In the west and south the accumulations are sometimes extensive, and in the east they will become larger as the day progresses. In the north and in Valais and the Gotthard region, the fresh snow slabs are lying on top of last week's thick layers of fresh snow. In turn, in particular on shady slopes, these layers are lying on top of a weakly bonded, unfavourable old snowpack. Avalanches can still be released in these faceted layers of old snow deep in the snowpack.
In central and southern Ticino and in the southern parts of Grisons, the weak layers in the old snowpack are closer to the surface. The bonding between the layers of fresh and wind-deposited snow is unfavourable on shady slopes in particular.

Observed weather review Monday, 13.03.2023

After an overcast night, it was partly sunny with high-altitude cloud during the day.

Fresh snow
-

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: between +6 °C in the north and +3 °C in the south

Wind
- In the south, light to moderate, otherwise moderate to strong from the west to southwest
- In the valleys exposed to the foehn, a strengthening south foehn developed as the day progressed

Weather forecast through Tuesday, 14.03.2023

On Monday night, precipitation will arrive from the west and south. In the north, snow will fall during the day as well; there will be isolated bright spells in Ticino. The snowfall level will be approximately 1800 m when the precipitation starts and gradually drop to 800 m in the north and 1400 m in the south by Tuesday.

Fresh snow
From Monday evening until Tuesday afternoon above 2000 m:
- Vaud and Fribourg Alps, extreme west and the north of Lower Valais: 30 to 50 cm; in the far west on the border to France, up to 70 cm
- Moesano, Avers, Val Bregaglia, Bernina region: 20 to 40 cm
- Other regions: 15 to 30 cm over a wide area, and up to 15 cm in central Grisons and Lower Engadine and on the highest peaks in the Jura

Temperature
At midday at 2000 m: about -3 °C in the north and about 0 °C in the south

Wind
- During the night, strong and at times storm force from the southwest to south
- During the day in the north and generally at elevated altitudes, strong from the west to northwest

Avalanche bulletin for Tuesday, 14. March 2023

Outlook through Thursday, 16.03.2023

Wednesday
In the north and in Valais and Grisons, snow will fall even at low altitudes. During the day the snowfall will cease in the east as well. There will be bright spells in the west and it will be quite sunny in the south. It will be cold. At elevated altitudes the northerly wind will be strong.
The avalanche situation will change very little. In the west and south, the solar radiation can be expected to trigger wet snow avalanches.

Thursday
It will be mostly sunny and much milder. The zero degree level will rise to approximately 2500 m.
The danger of dry avalanches will decrease slowly. On south facing slopes, moist snow slides originating in the fresh snow are to be expected under the influence of solar radiation and warming.